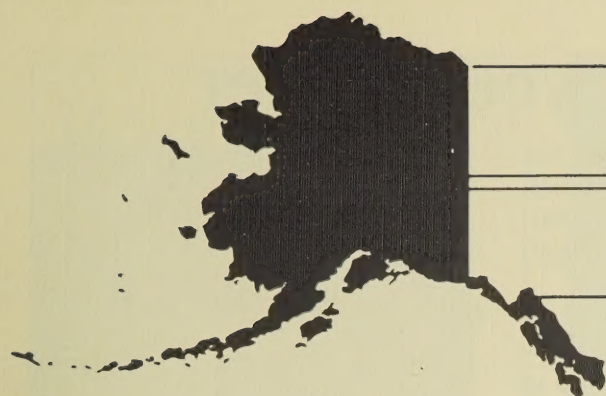


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# ALASKA PEOPLE

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No.1

January 1989

Volume X

Number I



*In the  
Name of  
Charity*





## On the Cover:

All in the name of charity. (counter clockwise from top) SD Mike Penfold splats ASD Les Rosenkrance.

(right) "Friends" of Branch of Mapping Science's Dayle Sherba raised enough money to plaster Dayle with four pies.

(bottom) DSD Bishop Buckle receives a banana cream from Resource's Sandy Thomas.

(left) Public Affairs Chief, David Vickery contributes his mug for charity.

\$467.00 was raised.

The final report on the **Alaska General Management Evaluation** was received and distributed to the Alaska Management Team January 4.

ALASKA PEOPLE is published monthly for the employees of the Bureau of Land Management and distributed statewide. It is produced by the Public Affairs Staff, Alaska State Office, 701 C Street, Box 13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513. Phone 271-5555.

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Jim Mroczek



# The Hanaayee Corner

It's great coming back to the Anchorage District. I was Associate District Manager from 1980-86 but being the District Manager is a job I'd always wanted.

I'm responsible for the management of 16 million acres of public lands within the southern half of Alaska. The Anchorage District manages 73,000 acres on Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base along with additional millions of acres of land pending conveyance. It's a big job and I couldn't do it without a great staff led by Sandy Dunn, associate district manager for Lands, and Laun Buoy, associate district manager for Resources.

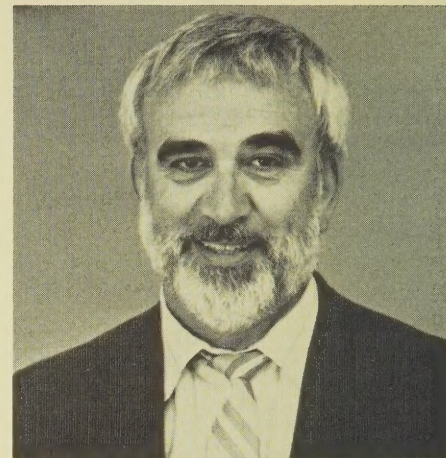
Demands for rights-of-way permits, leases and public sales keep the lands program staff busy. Other lands work is tied to our statewide Conveyance program which has the staff doing easement identification, conformance work along with Native allotment field reports, withdrawal processing and field development of sites and trails. Resolving trespass situations continues to be a priority.

The Resources program staff has its share of work too. The Iditarod National Historic Trail is under our administration and it is the only historic trail managed by BLM. Permits for Trail races are done by the staff and we've begun construction on a shelter cabin on the Kaltag-Unalakleet leg of the Trail.

We also manage the Unalakleet Wild River. An administrative site was established within the river corridor in 1988 and will be the base of operations for a specialist monitoring and inventorying river use during the summer.

We've got plans to complete a site design for a natural resource education center/interpretive trail complex in cooperation with Anchorage School District for the Campbell Tract. Five trail and bridge projects were completed on the Tract last year.

We're also wrapping up a multi-



Dick Vernimen

year moose enhancement project on the Tract. Hopefully, moose will stay away from highways bordering the tract.

We'll be able to do habitat mapping of key parts of the Anchorage District through cooperative efforts with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

A salmon counting and incubating project is underway on the Tuluksak River in an attempt to increase fish populations disturbed by mining. Some of the world's greatest salmon fisheries are found in Bristol Bay streams managed by the District.

A judicial decision mandated the need for better analysis of downstream impacts of mining at Nyac. This decision confirms the need for us to do an EIS on mining activities on the Tuluksak River drainage.

Last fiscal year the District received nine plans and 19 notices of operation for mining.

These are just a few of the things the Anchorage District is involved in. I see much more work ahead and I feel confident that my staff and I will meet and enjoy these challenges.

Dick Vernimen  
Anchorage District Manager

Pronounced ha nie' yee, hanaayee is Koyukon Athabascan for "reporter" or "one who talks."



# It was a Good Year: Volunteerwise

by Danielle Allen

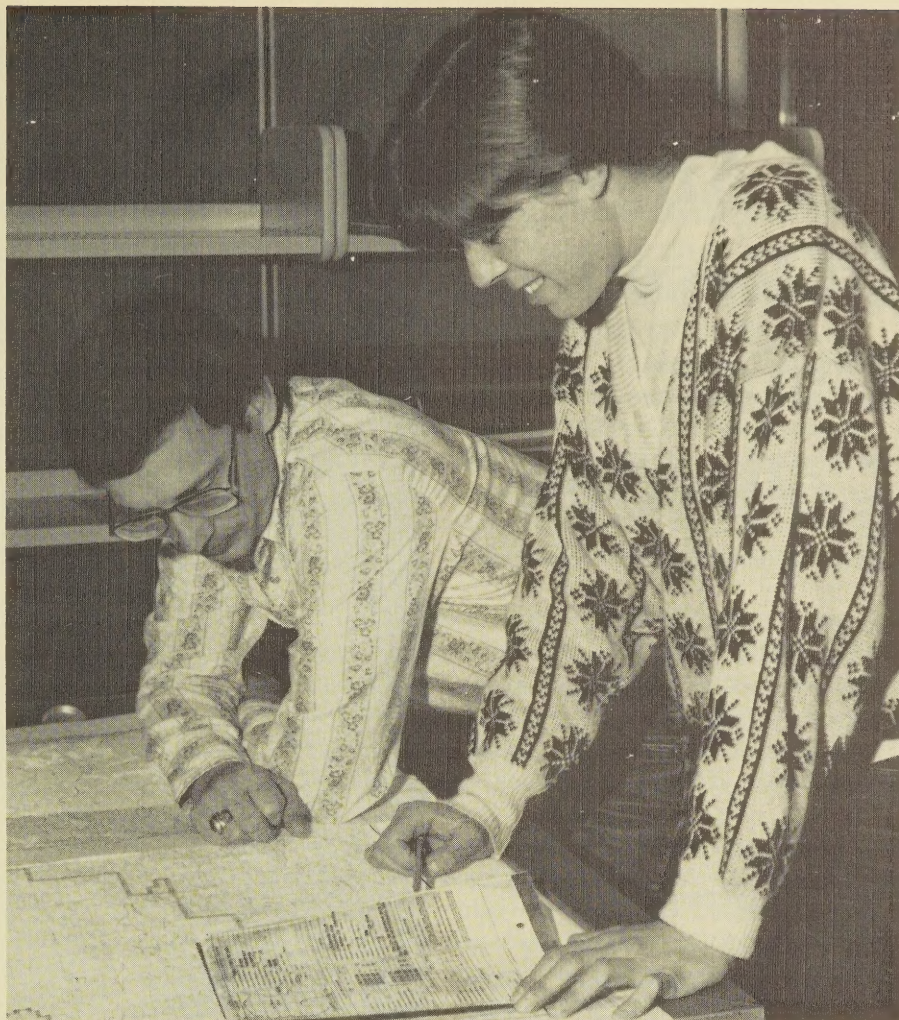
Volunteer coordinator Bob Moore can pat himself on the back for the recent accomplishments in BLM's volunteer program. FY 87 ended with 219 people volunteering for BLM, an 18 percent increase over last year. More than 27,000 hours were donated saving the BLM over \$336,000 if wages had been paid these individuals.

Not all divisions had volunteer help, but Support Services attracted the most with 76 people working more than 10,242 hours.

Volunteers did practically any and everything. They could be found in our campgrounds picking up litter and cleaning out-houses, assisting archaeologists doing research in the Tangle Lakes near Glennallen and plugging in map coordinates by computer.

BLM's Alaska Fire Service's 16-person volunteer fire crew was resurrected for the second year and they did so well fighting fires that they received a National Public Lands Award.

Moore anticipates it will only get better. "Most of the volunteers hear about the program from others. But more are coming from state vocational programs because of industrial accidents and handicaps. They are often people wanting to get back into the workforce," he says. To further promote the program and shape its direction, Moore will conduct a volunteer workshop for managers in Fairbanks this March.



Volunteer Randi Anderson consults with wildlife biologist Scott Robinson (left) about a fire perimeter for Randi's mapping project.

## Meet Volunteer Randi Anderson

by Sue Mitchell

For years, land managers have studied the effects of Alaskan fires on moose habitat, but no one has ever correlated moose densities with fire history. Volunteer Randi Anderson is conducting a study to do just that.

Working 15 hours a week for four to five months, Anderson is mapping the perimeters of all known fires in the Kobuk District since 1957.

She will create an overlay map of surveyed moose populations to see if dense populations of moose correlate to burned areas of a certain age.

"She hopes to find out if a recently burned area serves as a fire break for future fires in the area, and for how long. If fire perimeters meet without overlapping, that could mean recently burned areas

do not burn again.

Anderson has the perfect combination of skills for the job. She has been a firefighter for seven seasons, three of those with the Alaska Fire Service fire suppression specialists. She is a qualified incident commander for class three fires. In addition, she has a bachelor's degree in biology and is working on her master's degree in wildlife.

This project will give her some hands-on experience in wildlife management.

Eventually she hopes to write her master's thesis on the effects of fire on caribou habitat, particularly on the lichens that caribou need for winter forage. This project will give her practice towards that goal, besides providing the BLM with valuable information for future fire management decisions.

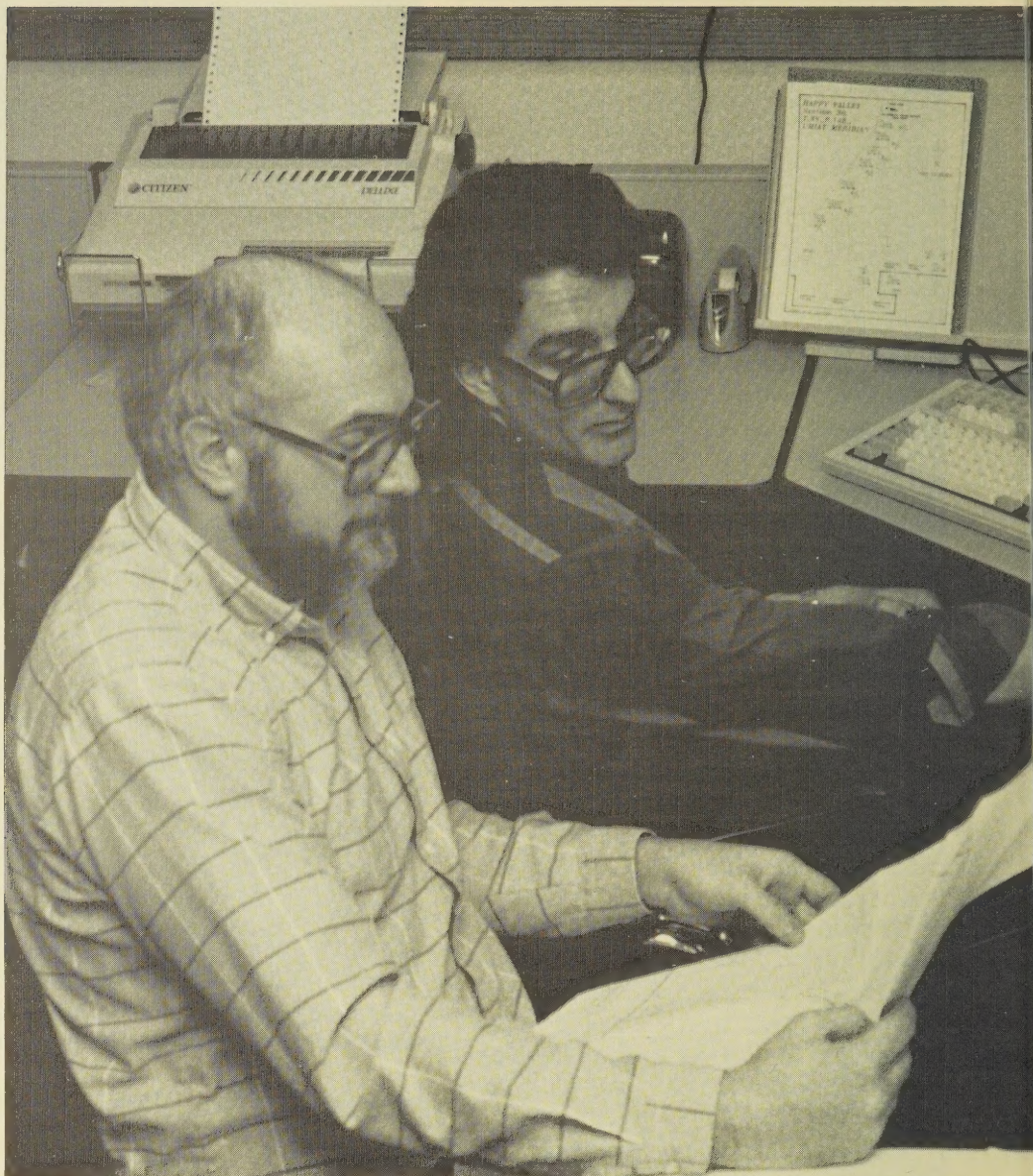


# AutoCAD the Answer to Resource Data Collection

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

**When resource specialists in the Arctic District head to the field next summer, they won't be burdened with large, unmanageable maps or return with hand-written notations. Instead, their data will be permanently stored in a computer, accessible to everyone, and changed or printed out at a moment's notice.**

Don Meares and Paul Salvatore, both geographers, are applying the AutoCAD software program to change the way resource and land information is collected, stored and used. Specific high use areas they digitize can be plotted as six



Don Meares (left) and Paul Salvatore consult on the best way to digitize new information in  
(photo by Dan Gullickson)

color maps small enough to be used in a helicopter, yet large enough to read detail.

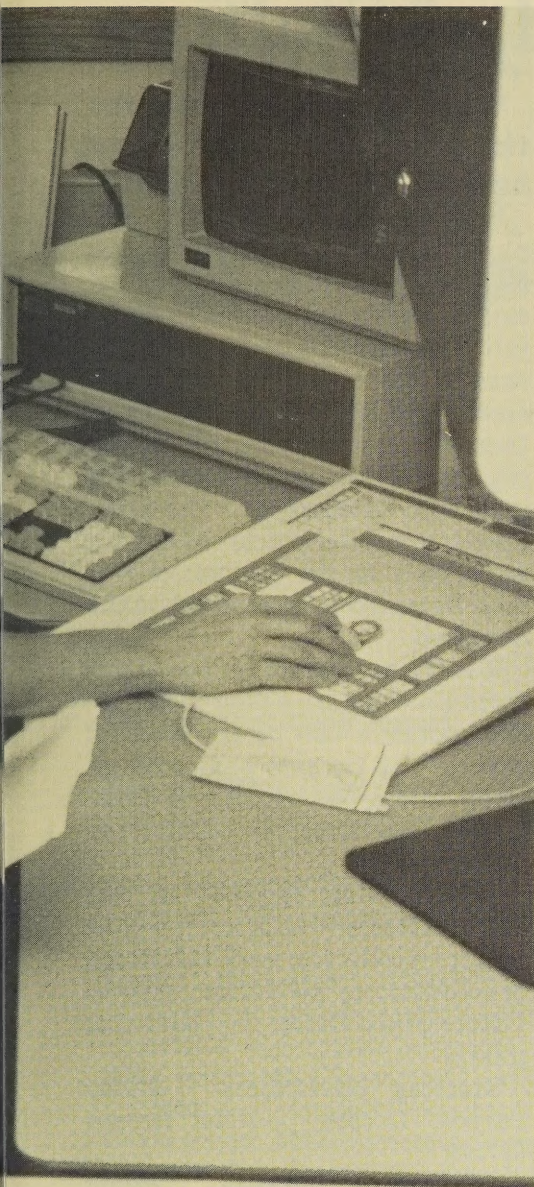
Map sources come from information taken from USGS maps, aerial photos and on-the-ground observations made by resource specialists. The result is a map with multiple layers of information. Instead of using mylars, information is added or taken away by computer.

A proposed mining operation for coal has been mapped down to the smallest detail. Peregrine falcon

nesting sites are being mapped each year to show long-term changes. Meares is developing a three-dimensional map for waterfowl, showing cliff-side and bluff-top locations of nests. Recreation planners can see how topographic features, existing structures, mining claims and granted rights-of-way affect placement of campgrounds. The most time-saving use of the new maps is in completing clearances for land-use applications.

Meares and Salvatore have been





existing map on the AutoCAD drafting.

# Computer Networking

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

**Tired of the complexity of moving documents between different types of computers? Tired of the "sneaker network" that wears out your tread and uses up government time? Try a computer networking system.**

Computer networks are established for a variety of reasons. The Arctic District needed the system to cope with problems caused by incompatible computers used during the formulation of the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan. Whenever staff members sent sections written on their personal computers to the project manager's Macintosh over a modem, the process was slow and the formatting was lost. A network program allowed them to transfer files easily and to access the Apple laser printer.

The Steese/White Mountains District recreation staff established a different type of network system. They have one computer dedicated as file server to transfer information. "One great feature is that we can transfer messages and files to someone who isn't there, and they can access it as soon as they return," says Outdoor Recreation Planner Lon Kelly and leader of the network project. That's a plus with co-workers who spend a lot of time in the field.

The Steese/White Mountains network has now been expanded to include other staff members and public affairs. The district's field office in Tok will be connected this winter, and the Chicken Guard Station employees will soon have access to the files stored on the server in Fairbanks.

Both Arctic and Steese/White Mountains use networks based on "AppleLink" protocols.

Don Meares, coordinator of the program in Arctic District says, "Not everyone needs to be in the network. The amount of traffic on network affects all the users, and managing the network can be very time consuming." Before setting up the system, he did a needs assessment, then looked at the market place to see what available products could solve their problems economically.

What is the "sneaker network?" That's the phrase coined by the computer industry to define the old way of doing things: walking back and forth to the desk of coworkers, carrying paper or disks and wasting time and shoe leather. It's an out-of-style way of doing business not used that much by the Arctic and Steese/White Mountains Districts.

collaborating on the AutoCAD mapping project for the past two years in their spare time. Their efforts have intensified in the past six months. "Paul has put in endless hours of his own time," said Meares. "Developing the base maps took a lot of experimentation and he is constantly coming up with new ideas."

Meares, a computer buff, keeps the project alive. He troubleshoots computer and software problems.

Meares and Salvatore are trying to make the maps on a scale that's

manageable yet useful. The maps are proportionally correct so the specialist can visually locate landmarks once on the ground. Scaled drawings can also give resource specialists an accurate picture of potential conflicts between users of the public land.

"The importance of this application," said Meares, "is that the information taken in field notes will be used, then passed on instead of being filed. Eventually the information can show relationships between the different disciplines.

This is important when making BLM management decisions."

The development of this specialized application of AutoCAD will change the way field people think. "When they see what we're trying to produce, they'll realize what kind of information we need," said Salvatore. "Next summer while they're collecting the specialized data, they will be seeing new ways to use the drafting program. They'll be looking at field work with new eyes."



# Questions Frequently asked of Staffing

by Rose Feltz

## What happens after I leave my job application with the Human Resources Branch?

Your application is date stamped on the date received. It is placed in the merit promotion file of the vacancy for which you are applying. When the vacancy announcement closes, your application is reviewed to determine if you meet the eligibility criteria.

If you are applying for a promotion and there are more than ten promotion-eligible applicants, your application and others are further reviewed by a promotion panel. The promotion panel evaluates your application based on the knowledges, skills and abilities (KSAs) that have been selected for the position. These are the KSAs that were advertised in the vacancy announcement. Applications are scored and ranked. The best qualified are then referred to the selecting official.

If you are applying for a lateral (same grade), or change to lower grade, only basic eligibility is determined by the Staffing Section. No further rating and ranking is required.

## How are Step Increases processed?

When you enter on duty, or are promoted, the Staffing Section inputs a start date code for the waiting period. Then 90 days prior to the eligibility date for a step increase, the Payroll/Personnel System generates a certification of step increases. Your supervisor must sign the certification stating that you are performing at an acceptable level of competence before you can receive this increase.

The SF-50 Notification of Personnel Action is automatically generated unless the Staffing Section initiates a Denial of Within-Grade Action, based on the supervisor's certification. If for some reason you do not receive a step increase on the date you feel it is due, be sure to contact your supervisor. Waiting periods for within grades are:

General Schedule (all grades):

Steps 1, 2, and 3 - 52 calendar weeks.

Steps 4, 5, and 6 - 104 calendar weeks

Steps 7, 8, and 9 - 156 calendar weeks.

Wage Grade (all grades):

Step 1 - 26 calendar weeks

Step 2 - 78 calendar weeks.

Step 3 and 4 - 104 calendar weeks.

## Who is responsible for the accuracy of my Leave and Earnings Statement?

It is essential that each employee review her/his Leave and Earnings Statement each pay period to determine that it is accurate. You should understand the reason for each deduction, income, and leave entry. If any of these items are different than you expected, you should discuss this with your timekeeper. The timekeeper may refer you to either your supervisor or the Branch of Human Resources, depending on the question.

If there are errors on the statement that require a payroll action, the sooner it can be resolved. If several pay periods pass without notification, the problem intensifies and becomes more difficult to correct.

The Staffing Section in the Human Resources Branch will be happy to help you with questions or refer you to the correct source.

**Reception Desk:** Barbara Cox (5043)

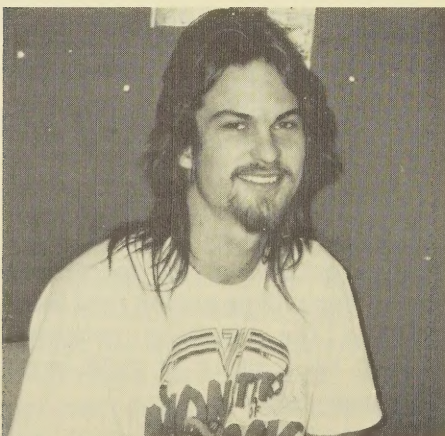
**Staffing Specialists:** Sandy Larson (3159), Sheila Brown (3758)

**Staffing Assistants:** Robin Bush (3162), Nida Follante (3169)

**Staffing Clerks:** Eva Ratcliffe (3164), Kelly Mahoney (3167)

**Chief, Staffing:** Rose Feltz (3180).

## Meet Volunteer Russell Davis



by Danielle Allen

"Creative juices" are the reason Russell Davis took a volunteer position with BLM's Title and Land Status. Davis, age nineteen, has been a creative type ever since he was a kid. He remembers second grade art class when he decided he would grow up to be a commercial artist. Volunteering is a way for him to realize that aspiration.

He figures a lot of college art classes are ahead of him. "By

volunteering for BLM, I can get experience and eventually get a job to support me through college," says Davis.

Although three days new to the job at the time of this interview, Davis is learning to use the Data General computer so he can edit maps. He was introduced to the volunteer program by his volunteer sponsor, Paul Whalin, a cartographic technician in Photogrammetry.



# Applause



## On-the-Spot Cash Award

- Bonita Willer**, Computer Program Analyst, ASO Division of Support Services
- Joan Steltenpohl**, Computer Assistant, ASO Division of Support Services
- Linda Ricketts**, Supervisory Computer System Analyst, ASO Division of Support Services
- Alex Mitchell**, Clerk Typst, ASO Division of Mineral Resources
- Carla Riley**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Mineral Resources
- Patricia Kelly**, Computer Program Analyst, ASO Division of Support Services
- Sonda Juliussen**, Computer Programmer, ASO Division of Support Services
- Jerry Cartwright**, Computer Specialist, ASO Division of Support Services

- Rosemarie Cunningham**, Computer Programmer, ASO Division of Support Services
- Gary Jamieson**, Computer Programmer, ASO Division of Support Services
- Frances Reed**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyances
- Michael Johnson**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyances
- Eleanor DeRoque**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyances
- Karon Tew**, Computer Clerk/Assistant, ASO Division of Support Services
- Rebecca Johnson**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyances

## Special Act Award

- David Evans**, Geologist, ASO Division of Mineral Resources
- Gregory Duren**, Electronic Intg. System Mechanic, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
- Mary Woodward**, Property Management Specialist, ASO Division of Support Services
- Charlotte Hall**, Support Services Clerk, ASO Division of Support Services
- Gayle Ellis**, Secretary, ASO Division of Support Services

## Sustained Superior Performance Award

- Carol Heath**, Contact Representative, ASO Division of Support Services
- Evalyn Punches**, Contact Representative, ASO Division of Support Services

- Carol Canterbury**, Lead Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Support Services
- Charles Haddox**, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
- Dayle Sherba**, General Biologist, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
- Darrell Winter**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyances
- Eve Heavner**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyances
- Ronald Cooper**, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
- Lynda Purvis**, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
- Michael Collie**, Supervisory Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
- Gail Soldato**, Shipment Assistant, ASO Division of Support Services

## Quality Step Increase

- Mary Ann Hoyt**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Support Services
- Nellie Alloway**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management
- Leonida Follante**, Staffing Assistant, ASO Division of Support Services
- Barbara Harris**, Accounting Technician, ASO Division of Support Services

## WELCOME ABOARD (December 1988)

- Susan M. Flora**, Natural Resource Specialist, Steese/White Mountains District
- Teresa D. McPherson**, Editorial Assistant, (Typing) ASO Public Affairs
- Mary C. Bloes**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyances

## MOVING ON (December 1988)

- Martha J. Housley**, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Mineral Resources
- Deborah Herndon**, Clerk Typist, ASO Division of Support Services
- James G. Pooley**, Supervisory Personnel Management Specialist, ASO Division of Support Services

- Thomas M. Frey**, Supervisory Forestry Technician, AFS
- Winnifred K. Brudevold**, Purchasing Agent, ASO Division of Support Services
- Dorothy Earls**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management
- Lorinda A. Brown**, Secretary, ASO Office of Management, Planning and Budget



# Workwise or Otherwise

BLM's White Mountains display was shown at the Alaska Sled Dog Symposium in Fairbanks November 20. Outdoor recreation planner Lon Kelly was on hand to answer questions. The unpopulated one-million-acre White Mountains National Recreation Area is a favorite with northern Alaska mushers.

It 'twas the season that BLMers were generous. BLM's **Alaska State Office** gave money to three BLM families, Brother Francis Shelter, the Neighbor to Neighbor fund and Missing Children of America from \$2,200 collected from activities such as a Santa photo session, pie throwing, raffles and bake sales.

The **Anchorage District** raised \$125 for the Anchorage Daily News Neighbor to Neighbor fund at their Christmas charity potluck.

EEO's **Willie Ransom, Jr.** received honorable mention from the World of Poetry for his poem, "Early Morning Coming Down" in a recent poetry contest. World of



*This moose and her calf were found licking the salt off Campbell Tract's sidewalk. The safety committee investigated and recommended that the moose be cited for unauthorized use of government property and for parking in a handicapped zone. District Manager Dick Verninen overruled them and suspended the sentence "in honor of the Christmas holidays."*

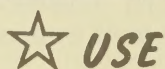
Poetry serves as an outlet for aspiring poets by publishing their works and awarding contest winners monetarily.

The history of BLM, titled **The Story of BLM**, is available in the Public Affairs offices. This publication documents BLM's history in a readable and interesting way. Due to a limited number of copies, employees must request a copy in person.

Drinking water transported to remote fires can cost from \$2-5 a gallon. **Smokejumper Tony Pastro** has found a way to produce safe drinking water from Alaskan lakes and streams at one tenth the cost.

The system combines existing filters and an iodine feeder to produce safe water at five gallons a minute, much faster than existing commercial models. The three fil-

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